

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

Published by the Commission on Public Relations

of the National Christian Council of Japan

Editors:

Chuzo Yamada

Ronald G. Korver

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2,4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700, Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00, (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 273

June 1, 1965

"Evangelist of Engrafted Trees"	1
Emergency Meeting of Christians for Peace in Viet Nam.	2
Rice Caravan to Korea.	2
Joint Action for Mission	3
Truck-stop Center.	4
Teachers--"Bound Together in One Mission".	5
Catholic-Protestant Scholars Joint Lecture	6
Church Architecture	6

"EVANGELIST OF ENGRAFTED TREES"

The Mainichi Daily News recently carried a lengthy article on the "Evangelist of Engrafted Trees."

The evangelist is Shunzo Nakagawa (40), who, with his family of six, lives on a farm between Kyoto and Osaka. The nickname "Evangelist of Engrafted Trees," is the result of his numerous visits to farm homes, carrying with him engrafted pecan trees to promote the nut industry and at the same time to spread the Christian gospel.

After graduating from Kyoto University in 1948, Nakagawa was persuaded by Toyohiko Kagawa to help at Kagawa's Stereo Agricultural Research Institute. At Kagawa's suggestion, he pursued further study at Tokyo University and five years of horticulture and other courses at Goshen College in Indiana, Ohio University and Texas A. & M., and then returned to Japan in 1955 to establish the Tree Crop Research Institute. Inspired by Nakagawa's dreams, an elderly Japanese couple in Chicago provided funds for this Christian training center for rural youth.

In a one-acre pecan nursery, there are 18 varieties among 40,000 four-year-old pecan seedlings. By grafting and other experiments, the quality of the pecans has been improved. In the last ten years, 20,000 English walnut and 4,000 pecan trees have been distributed throughout Japan.

Nakagawa's project has been designated as the Kyoto Rural Evangelistic Center by the United Church of Christ in Japan. One of its feature activities is the Farmer's Gospel School, where Nakagawa, with local pastors, lectures on horticultural science, tree crops, soil conservation, fertilizers and food processing. Biblical references are prevalent in his lectures, promoting interest in Bible reading.

Christian stewardship is taught in a class on soil conservation, designed to show the farmer that all of nature's gifts come from Providence and that in his work as a farmer he is cooperating with God.

After satisfactory completion of study the farmer may receive a loan of livestock and/or plants from the Center for 3 to 6 years.

Nakagawa summarizes his activities: "It is especially important for the local pastors to encourage farmers to engage in their farming with Church-centered faith. The sole aim of our project is to bring rural homes together as units to form rural churches. In a few years it will be possible to establish self-supporting churches consisting of farmers with a well-grounded faith."

EMERGENCY MEETING OF CHRISTIANS FOR PEACE IN VIET NAM

The Emergency Meeting of Christians for Peace in Viet Nam, with offices at the Research Institute on the Mission of the Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan, recently published a statement opposing American action in Viet Nam.

The following is a translation of the statement:

The war in Viet Nam has accelerated since America's first attack on North Viet Nam, and the situation has now become critical. We, the undersigned, feel we cannot remain idle spectators when peace-loving Vietnamese are being killed by attacks with Napalm bombs and poison gas, and there are voices in America even heard favouring the use of nuclear weapons. We feel moral responsibility when we consider that our country is already involved in the war, being used as it is by American troops as a supply base and for recruitment of LST crews, with the sanction of the government. There is now the possibility of the war spreading to the whole Far East through so called 'escalation,' with grave consequences to the future of our country, bound as it is to America by the Japan-U.S. Security Pact.

According to the White Paper on Viet Nam issued recently by the U.S. State Department, America understands the activities of the Viet Cong (the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Front) as "a communist government intentionally embarking upon the conquest of a sovereign neighbouring state" and as "savage terrorism and armed attacks instructed and controlled by the communist government of Hanoi."

We consider this to be a mistaken understanding, and the war basically as a movement that is deeply rooted in the Viet Nam people for the liberation of their own country. The progress of the war and the support which is given by the Vietnamese to the People's Liberation Front shows this to be so, in our opinion. Even if the path that Viet Nam chooses to tread is not in the interests of America or in accordance with the American idea of freedom, it is solely a matter for the Vietnamese themselves to decide. No country has the right to interfere in the affairs of another country, send an army there and kill and injure its people. The bombing of North Viet Nam cannot be justified by international law. We consider it to be morally unjustifiable.

Accordingly we, the undersigned, make the following demand for the sake of human dignity and the cause of international justice:

1. Immediate cessation of the bombing attacks on North Viet Nam.
2. Truce with the People's Liberation Front and a solution achieved by negotiations which express the self-determination of the Viet Nam people.
3. Withdrawal of the U.S. Army from South Viet Nam.

Although a proposal concerning this war by the Japanese government could have an important influence on the present world situation, our government has so far shown no positive attitude in respect of bringing about a peaceful solution to the Viet Nam war, but rather, to our great regret, actually supports the policy of the U.S. government. We strongly urge our government to speak and act in a way that befits a country whose constitution is based on the maintenance of peace, and to this end must stir up public opinion. In particular, we Christians have many friends in America, and respect their Christian tradition. We must tell them how

great is our concern over this problem as Christians, and warn the American Christian world against following this dangerous course any further, fruitless as it is for America itself. Furthermore we express our sincere intention to do all that we can and should in this present situation.

There was a long list of signatories, including important persons in the United Church of Christ.

The group is also attempting to raise sufficient funds to send a delegate to the U.S. to make representations to President Johnson, the U.N., churches and other Christian organizations; and is also appealing to the Japanese government and the Prime Minister.

RICE CARAVAN TO KOREA

KOINONIA, a news release published by the General Affairs Office of the Korean Christian Church in Japan, notes that Japan Church World Service is sponsoring a Rice Caravan to Korea. All Sunday Schools in the Korean Christian Churches in Japan are raising money to assist in this program.

Other Japanese Christians and the Korean Christian Church in Japan are also raising funds to send Dr. Cho, and expert agriculturist specializing in rice farming, to Korea to assist farmers.

JOINT ACTION FOR MISSION

The Committee on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the Kyodan, established at the Kyodan General Assembly in October, 1964, has a budget of 4 million yen a year, a part of the total Kyodan budget, and is at present responsible for partial support of the following personnel working overseas:

Rev. Katsumi Yamahata is being sponsored in cooperation with the Methodist Churches of Bolivia, Switzerland and the U.S. Rev. Yamahata and family returned to Japan in April, 1964 after five years of service in Bolivia and returned again to Bolivia in March of this year. Family expenses in Japan and return travel to Bolivia were provided by the committee.

Dr. and Mrs. Kosuke Koyama are sponsored in cooperation with the United Church of Christ in Thailand, the American Baptist Convention, Disciples of Christ, and the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Dr. Koyama is professor of one of the seminaries of the UCC of Thailand. Last year ¥180,000 was contributed in support of their work, and expenses for their stay of five months in Japan, since April of this year, are being provided.

Dr. Kazuo Saikawa, leprologist, and his wife, sent to Taiwan by the Japan Overseas Christian Medical Association, are also being partially supported. Last year ¥240,000 was contributed.

Rev. Kunichi Hanamori was sent to Bolivia in February, 1964 to work in a Japanese colony under the same arrangements as Rev. Yamahata.

Mr. Kazuho Makino will be sent to the Allahabad Agricultural Institute in India as a technical specialist in July of this year. The Committee has budgeted ¥130,000 for a part of his travel expenses.

The present committee envisions its future function as the "organ of the Kyodan through which all World Council of Churches contacts and East Asian Christian Council contacts will be made."

The committee, which is entrusted with negotiations with other Churches in the world for financial help and for raising funds in Japan to facilitate sending of Japanese "missionaries" abroad, is following the guidelines recommended by the EACC that the ratio of support be 75%(maximum) from Western Churches and 25%(minimum) for the Asian Churches as a working basis for joint action in Christian mission.

TRUCK-STOP CENTER

At Kakogawa, along Highway #2 between Tokyo and Shimonoseki, Japan two new buildings of a church-sponsored "truck stop" were dedicated on Saturday, May 15, 1965. Along with providing food, rest, and counselling facilities, the project will encourage basic research on the cause and prevention of highway accidents.

Known now as The Traffic Labor Welfare Center, the work has grown out of the personal efforts begun several years ago by Rev. Michio Imai, a United Church of Christ pastor and director of the Center. Mr. Imai saw the deep personal grief of a family bereaved by a traffic fatality and of a driver, involved in a fatal crash. Determined to investigate the conditions, he found little was known of the causes, few positive steps being taken yet toward prevention.

Cooperating in the sponsoring the Center program are the United Church of Christ in Japan, the National Christian Council, and other Christian organizations, as well as trucking company and government officials.

Substantial financial contributions have come from churches in Holland, Germany and Australia, through the World Council of Churches, Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugees and World Service, and from American churches. Women of churches in the Harima Larger Parish served refreshments at the ceremony.

The two new, light and airy prefabricated buildings have restaurant facilities for 50 people, hot bath, beds for 25 drivers, and office and counselling rooms.

At the dedication ceremonies, Mr. Toshio Inoue, head of the Labor Administration of the Hyogo prefecture government, paid tribute to the significance of Mr. Imai's initiative, saying, "We have learned from this Center about traffic accident prevention and want to follow its example."

In his comments, Mayor Sadao Inaoka, mayor of Kakogawa City, who is not a Christian himself, said, "We are deeply impressed with this work of love that comes from the Christian spirit of concern for one's fellowmen. The Center will provide a warm home for those who are in the tough battle of the highways."

Dr. Aiji Takeuchi, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center and professor of sociology at Kwansei Gakuin University, explained the function of the Center. In addition to providing food and rest, it will serve as a research center for studying truckers psychological, physical, and sociological problems, as well as a forum for discussing and studying the causes and prevention of highway traffic accidents.

A telegram of congratualations from Mr. Shutarō Matsuura, Minister of Transportation, was read, and the prefecture police band played,--reflecting the community and national interest in and support for the Center's ministry.

Rev. Michio Imai came to Kakogawa City, 20 miles from Kobe, with his family in 1960 with the intention of ministering to industrial workers in this rapidly expanding heavy industrial area. Having no means of financial support at first, he and his wife opened a small restaurant to support their family and to establish direct contact with the workers. Their truck-driver customers soon made them aware of the deep personal and social problems involved the lives of those whose trucks rolled by on Highway #2.

As a usual thing, a driver drives for days and nights without real rest, making an average of six or seven such trips a month. The loading and unloading of cargo, plus the long hours of driving, cause exhaustion and drowsiness, which have been found to be major causes of many accidents that occur on the highway.

The Imai family is the nucleus of the Center staff. Mr. Imai spends much of his time talking and counselling with the men. His wife runs the restaurant, helped by their three children, who add a homelike atmosphere to the Center. There are two other full-time staff members and six part-time counsellors, two of whom are specialists on legal problems.

Future plans include providing a clinic, meeting hall, and recreation rooms, as additional funds become available.

TEACHERS--"BOUND TOGETHER IN ONE MISSION"

More than 1,000 persons--a majority of them university students and young adults--attended the National Christian Teachers' Rally held in Tokyo, May 3-4, 1965.

"Bound Together in One Mission" was the banner under which Christian school teachers, Sunday school teachers, pastors, and church and education administrators from 19 denominations and Christian organization met at Toyo Eiwa Girls' School, for the 12th annual meeting sponsored by the Church Education Department of the National Christian Council.

The need to recognize the rapid changes taking place in society and the need to be conscious of the question of education in this context were emphasized by three well-known Christian lecturers: Dr. Kiyoko Takeda Cho, professor on the History of Thought at International Christian University; Dr. Masao Takenaka, dean, Doshisha School of Theology; and Rev. Tsuyoshi Takasaki, professor, Tokyo Union Theological Seminary. Small discussion groups dealt with Christian education as it takes place in the church, in schools, at work, and in the home. Other sections were devoted to skills and techniques, including counselling, literature, and audio-visuals.

Dr. Cho, speaking on "Trends in the Nature of Education in the World Today and Our Christian Role," pointed out that today education is looked upon as having a much wider base than it was in the past. Modern education is primarily concerned, she said, not with building up a store of knowledge in a passive spirit, but with the development of the capacity to learn, and to structure one's knowledge and experiences, as well as with elasticity of mind to handle new ways of thinking. Thus, the view of the role of the teacher is changed, more emphasis being placed on the teacher's participation in the life of the total "educating community" than on the function of formal teaching.

Dr. Cho said that in the future Christian schools and church schools in Japan must "stand together as brothers" as they seek to approach the problems of education from the standpoint of what is the Christian view of man and how is he to be nurtured in accordance with this view, in a society where the non-Christian concept of man is dominant and yet the Christian contribution is deeply needed.

"Education should be carried on at the point where the Gospel and culture meet," said Dr. Cho. "Education is a basic problem of Christianity as it concerns 'humanizing' human beings. Christian education should not start with 'Christian Education' as such but should be concerned, first, with the kind of education which faces, and struggles with, the actual problems of this changing world."

Dr. Takenaka, speaking on "Christian Education as a Means of Communicating the Word of God" paid tribute to Christian church school teachers, saying that the most important thing today is to have laymen who are happily, voluntarily, involved in helping to spread the Gospel. He emphasized the need of having all the members of a congregation participating in study and prayer as to how the church is to be the Body of Christ in today's society.

Noting that there are now beginning to be 2nd and 3rd generation Christians in Japan, he spoke of the inclination of 3rd generation Christians to become spiritually slovenly. "I want to see the 3rd generation Christians be as active as the 1st," he said.

Dr. Takasaki, in his lecture on "Our Mission in Christian Education," said that it is necessary, in these changing times, to see the responsibilities of church education from the standpoint that looks both at the stream of history and at the world perspective. In this connection, he said, we must define "what we should do what we can do, and what we want to do."

Toyo Eiwa Girls' School, where the 1965 meeting was held, is a Christian school, with a total enrollment of two thousand students in its grade school, high schools and junior college. At the college level, it has a department of English and a department of kindergarten training.

CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT SCHOLARS JOINT LECTURE

Catholics and Protestants held a joint meeting to hear two world famous Christian scholars, each of whom is now on lecture tour in Japan.

The meeting was held at the Oriens Institute for Religious Research on May 27, featuring the Very Reverend Fr. Barnabas Ahern, C.P., member of the Committee on promotion of Christian Unity under Cardinal Bea, and Rev. Dr. Murray H. Leiffer, professor of Social Ethics and Sociology, Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois.

Dr. Leiffer's subject was "Urban Apostolate in a Changing Society," while Father Ahern spoke on "Ecumenical Trends Today."

The meeting was sponsored jointly by the Research Institute on the Mission of the Church of United Church of Christ in Japan and Oriens Institute for Religious Research.

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

Mr. Akira Inadomi, an architect and the son of a Lutheran pastor, speaking on church architecture at the 17th Annual Conference of the Japan Mission of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod held at the Kiyosato Educational Experimental Project (KEEP) of the Episcopal Church, claimed that "the most outstanding progress in the field of church architecture today is being made by the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod."

He challenged the Church in Japan to provide more adequate facilities for worship, the celebration of the sacraments, private prayer and fellowship. He also called for adequate church facilities at strategic locations to meet rapid urbanization and mobility of population. He stressed that cost should not be predetermined, but rather determined on the basis of need, purpose and intended activity.